

[Translation]

Inconvenience to Tourists

2083. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the tourists and the occurrence of accidents at Fatehpur Sikri area due to heavy damage of Agra-Jaipur National Highway No.11 between Agra-Fatehpur Sikri and due to heavy traffic at this narrow route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government of India makes all out efforts to keep all National Highways in a traffic worthy condition within the resources available. As regards National Highway 11, the restoration of damaged road caused due to heavy flood is in progress as per the report received from the State Government.

[English]

Production of AC-I Coaches

2084. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stopped production of AC-I coaches;

(b) if so, the reasons for attaching combined AC-I, II coaches with Kalka Mail, Poorva Express, Darjeeling Mail, Bombay-Howrah Mail, Amritsar Mail, Coromondal Express and Gitanjali Express;

(c) whether it is a fact that passengers have disliked these combined coaches;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether full AC-I coaches have to be provided to Eastern South Eastern and North Eastern Railway;

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Partial I A.C. coaches have been provided on Kalka Mail and Purva Express in view of increase in upper class accommodatiuon in this sector by Rajdhani Express. While there is no I A.C. coach on Coromondal and Geetanjali Expresses, Full I A.C. coaches are running on Bombay-Howrah and Amritsar Mails. Partial I A.C. coach on Darjeeling Mail has been replaced by a full I A.C. coach w.e.f. 18.11.1996.

(c) and (d) Partial I A.C. coaches have been in use for a very long time. Provision of partial or full I A.C. coaches is dependent on the traffic potential. Patronage of partial I A.C. coaches has been good.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

Railway Connection in West Bengal

2085. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Railways have provided only north-south connection throughout West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether there are demands to provide east-west connection in West Bengal;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction to provide such connections between Murshidabad, Nadia, Birbhum and Bankura, Purulia and Midnapore;

(d) whether it is a fact that this connection is urgently needed by constructiong railway lines from Durgapur to Jhargram via Bankura, from Raniganj to Bankura via Mejia and by conversion of barddhaman-Katwa narrow gauge line into Broad gauge;

(e) whether his Ministry propose to give due consideration to connect Eastern Railway line with South Eastern Railway to provide direct link with all district;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if no, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) East West connections are available between Naihati and Bandel and between Chamaragram and New Farakka.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, a survey for conversion of Bankura-Damodar Railway with extrn. to Tarakeshwar/Burdamman/Durgapur has been taken up and further consideration of this link would become possible once the survey report becomes available.

(e) and (f). South Eastern Railway and Eastern Railway are already linked to each other.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges

2086. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for setting up Telephone exchanges at Bandarbela, Sanjan, Panchlai and other places of Balsad district in Gujarat;